

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

SHIMO et al

Atty. Ref.: 1417-442; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. Unknown

Group:

Filed: October 17, 2003

Examiner:

For: BLACK IRON-BASED PARTICLES AND BLACK TONER CONTAINING THE  
SAME

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October 17, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for  
examination, please amend the application as follows: